

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Marion
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Peabody Historical Library Museum

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Old Peabody Library (preferred name)

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

East of the intersection of East Division and  
Walnut street on the south side of Division

CITY OR TOWN:

Peabody

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

No. 4 Garner Shriver

STATE

Kansas 66866

CODE

20

COUNTY:

Marion

CODE

115

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY  
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building  
☐ Site ☐ Structure  
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public  
☐ Private  
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process  
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied  
☐ Unoccupied  
☐ Preservation work  
in progress

ACCESSIBLE  
TO THE PUBLIC

Yes:

- ☒ Restricted  
☐ Unrestricted  
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |  |                                   |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural  | <input type="checkbox"/> Government        | <input type="checkbox"/> Park              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial        | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious         |  |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific        |  |                                   |

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Peabody Township

STREET AND NUMBER:

c/o Peabody Township Trustees

CITY OR TOWN:

Peabody

STATE:

Kansas 66866

CODE

20

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Marion County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Marion

STATE:

Kansas

CODE

20

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

None

DATE OF SURVEY:

- ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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STATE:	Kansas
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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☒ Moved ☐ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Peabody Library building is a one-story Vernacular style structure with a basement. The frame building is a simple rectangle with two attached ante rooms, one at the north and the other at the south end. The walls are constructed of horizontal siding. Wide bands of siding traverse the building at the window sill line and at the window head line, dividing the main facade into three portions. Broad boards at each corner make a strong statement. The steeply pitched gable roof overhangs the walls below with a simple eave. Roofs on the two adjoining rooms are similar to the main roof.

Window openings are simple rectangles of the four light double hung sash type. The main entrance in the north ante room is a single leaf door with a large transom above.

The south ante room was added in 1968-1969 to house an extensive doll collection given to the museum by a local resident.

The building is an excellent example of early Vernacular architecture executed in wood frame and has been restored to a very fine condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1875

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☒ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Peabody Library building, presently the Peabody Historical Library Museum, housed the first free tax-supported library in the state. The town of Peabody was named in 1871 after Frank H. Peabody of Boston, an Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad executive. In May, 1874, Mr. Peabody visited the town, at which time he announced he would donate money for a library building, furniture, books and periodicals if the Peabody township (the town of Peabody was not yet incorporated) would secure four town lots for the site. He also agreed to pay for the landscaping of the property. The contract for construction was awarded to Topeka builders who finished the structure in the spring of 1875. The library was opened to the public on June 19, 1875, and the following February the state legislature authorized the township to levy a tax to support the library.

The frame structure housed the library facilities until 1914 when a new Carnegie library was constructed on the old location. The original building was moved to a city park and later to a schoolground. It was used as a utility building and for club meetings, and also stood idle for a number of years until 1960 when planning for the 1961 Kansas centennial celebration aroused interest in preserving the building as a museum. Local citizens organized, obtained a \$2,000 grant from the Marion County Historical Society and moved the structure to a lot near its original location, just east of the present library building. The old library building which now contains relics of early Peabody and Kansas history, was dedicated as a museum on July 3, 1961. It is operated and maintained by the Peabody Historical Society.

The Old Peabody Library is one of the few remaining early structures erected in the community and has local significance because of its service to the town in its formative years. The building has state significance because it was the first free tax-supported library in Kansas.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

All About Marion County, Kansas (Marion Centre, Kan., E. W. Hoch, 1876), p. 9.  
Catalogue of the Peabody Public Library (Peabody, Kan., Gazette Publishing House, 1890), p. iii.  
 "Had First Free Public Library in Kansas," Peabody Gazette-Herald, June 29, 1961.  
History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), p. 1260.  
Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 27, no. 4 (winter, 1961), p. 593.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	38°	10'	01"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	97°	06'	21"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: April 22, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Nyle H. Miller

Title Exec. Dir., Kans. State Hist. Soc.

Date

June 12, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS